exploit minerals of the denotified sanctuary area;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the exploitation of the denotified sanctuary area requires permission from the Central Government; and

(d) if so, the details about the procedure for exploiting minerals from denotified area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Sanghi Cement Project, as per the environmental conditions stipulated, is required to obtain its main raw material, namely limestone, from Khavda located at a distance of 100 km from the sanctuary. However, as per information received, the project is expocted to obtain its raw material mainly from the area denotified, although no such proposal for mining has been received for environmental clearance.

(a) and (d) As per the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 1994, as amended on 4th May, 1994, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, no new mining project of major minerals, including limestone for cement production, can be taken up without prior environmental clearance from the Central Government. In order to consider the proposal for environmental clearance, the project authorities are required to submit the requisite information, which interalia includes Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Scarcity of Telephone Instruments

*296. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the severe scarcity of telephone instruments in the country;

(b) whether MINL has now stopped replacment of old, outdated and defective telephone instruments; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to meet the growing need of telephone instruments in the country and to replace the old instruments to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There is no scarcity of telephone instruments in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise. However, there is sufficient production capacity available in the country to meet the growing demand of telephone instruments for providing new telephone connections as well as for the replacement.

Waiting List for Telephones in Nehru Place Exchange

*297. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: SHRIMATI MALATI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of registrants in the waiting list for telephone connections registered under General Category and what is the present position of waiting list in Nehru Place Exchange, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that allotment of telephone connections in this exchange is very poor as compared to other exchanges of Delhi;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when all the registrants registered under General Category would be provided telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of applicants in the waiting list for telephone connections under N-OYT General category in Nehru Place Exchange is 21736. The last date of